

From the Editor

Marines,

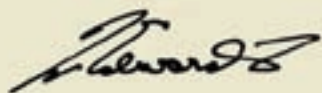
After more than a year's hiatus, the semi-annual Marine Corps ground-safety magazine is back. I recall reading the last issue, summer 2004 traffic-safety issue, while in the sands of Iraq and wondering where the stories were that pertained to operations. I now find myself as an infantry officer serving my B-billet as the *Ground Warrior* editor, which gives me a chance to make some changes.

Ground Warrior serves two purposes: It lets those who work in safety identify what kinds of hazards exist and how to avoid them. More importantly, the magazine is an outlet for you, the "ground warrior," to get your mishap stories published and to help out the Marine Corps.

You will not find the names of Marines involved in mishaps, unless they specifically request to have their names used. You also never will find names of units because that's not important, either. The lessons learned are what's important. You will read about some incidents that cause serious injuries and sometimes death. It is important to tell these stories so our fellow Marines don't lose their lives in vain. The Marines who have their stories told in *Ground Warrior* were serving our great nation just like us, conducting the same missions that we continue to conduct. It is important that we honor them by learning their lessons and ensuring mishaps like theirs do not occur again.

E-mail me all your comments and stories of good things going on in safety, as well as lessons learned from mishaps or near-misses. I look forward to receiving your feedback and incorporating it into future issues.

Semper Fi,



Capt Billy Edwards, USMC
Ground Warrior Editor
Naval Safety Center and HQMC (Safety)
SAFE-GrndWarrior@navy.mil



Winter 2005

50-Percent Mishap-Reduction Campaign

What Is It?

On May 19, 2003, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld challenged all services to achieve a 50-percent, across-the-board reduction in all mishaps by Sept. 30, 2005. Mishaps not only are expensive but rob us of our greatest assets - our Marines. Loss of warfighters and equipment affect our combat readiness and threaten mission success.

Where Do We Stand?

Between Oct. 1, 2003, and Sept. 30, 2004 (fiscal year 2004), 101 Marines died as a result of mishaps. Although this number represents a 19-percent reduction in fatal injuries from the previous year (124), the Marine Corps is not on track to meet its mishap-reduction goals.

In fiscal year 2004, 57 deaths occurred from non-operational accidents, such as automobile crashes or recreational accidents—a decrease of six from 2003. Operational accidents went down from 45 fatalities in 2003 to 29. Unfortunately, 2004 was the worst year since 1990 for aviation accidents that result in death or more than \$1 million in damages—15 Marines were killed and 19 aircraft destroyed.

What Can I Do?

- Identify the hazards of your job and the jobs of those you supervise.
- Get to know your unit's safety officer and use him/her as a resource in preventing accidents and injuries.
- Talk about risk management and safety in your unit. Call a "time out" to help focus the group's attention on developing a control for a job hazard, or find a new way to avoid the hazard all together.
- Risk management isn't just for the battle field or even just for on the job; the same principles apply to all off-duty situations. **GW**